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SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE
LIBRARY GAZETTE
XII 1998

Writing History and Other Arts

by Betsy Muhlenfeld

It is with great pleasure that I speak with you this evening...(about) some general matters related to the writing of contemporary history, and of our own history in particular.

I *have* had a little experience writing history although it is not, as we faculty members say, "my discipline," and I can attest that for me, writing history was at once the most difficult writing I have ever done, and the most creative. It calls upon everything we know and are as humans, requiring consummate artistry to make the past relevant and alive.

Charter Day principals, 1956: Miss Fraser, Mrs. Pannell, Miss Glass, Miss Morenus
Photos from *The Story of Sweet Briar.*

In the twentieth century, with the professionalization of history, and in a time when the rigor of the sciences became the model for all disciplines, we came to place accuracy paramount, and to cease insisting on artistry, on story. In the process, an army of second rate historians created countless interminable tomes (many of them lodged stuffily in Cochran Library) full of data placed under the microscope and recorded in the most excruciating detail, but contributing almost nothing to our understanding of our past or of our present.

Such "history" is based on a fallacy—that we can recover the full, accurate, untainted truth. But of course we can never be complete and accurate. History tends to start where records start, and stop where records break off. For centuries, historians ignored whole continents, entire races, and one whole gender, because the records that historians were accustomed to use—political records, for example, or court records, newspapers, the works of earlier historians, and published memoirs—all focused on and were written by white males.

When I was working on Mary Boykin Chesnut's biography, I was stymied by the fact that her wartime journals are extant for the year 1861, and early 1862, but any journals that she kept through most of 1862 and 1863 have not survived. They pick up again in the late Fall 1863. So what could I say about her life during that undocumented time? Not much. I must admit that the biography glosses over this period because it has to—absent much in the way of first hand evidence, it has very little to say.

Any accuracy we think we have achieved when we are writing history is a poor imitation of accuracy indeed, including only that for which there is documentation or memory.

I mention this, because it is time we begin to think about creating a new history of Sweet Briar College, in conjunction with our Centennial Celebration, and as we consider whether this is a task we even want to undertake, we need to be fully aware of the challenges inherent in daring to try to bring the past alive, to bring it into the present bearing any resemblance to what it actually was—let alone to write something so compelling and valuable that it will speak to generations of readers who follow us.

To consider how difficult such a task is, imagine you are at a reunion. You and some of your classmates (not all of them, of course) have some memories in common. And yet your vision of Sweet Briar, or whatever college you attended, your memory, your truth, is a bit different from that of anyone else at the reunion. After you talk with folks for a while, you may even revise your memory to accord more comfortably with the memories of your classmates—or you may decide that you actually DO remember something they *swear* happened, even

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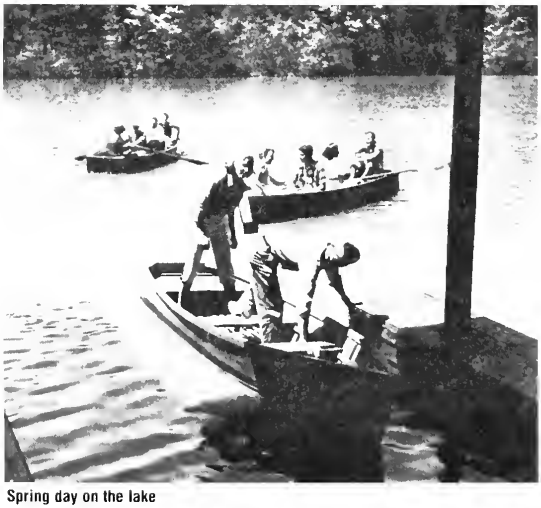
Good Queen Meta, 1937

Dr. Barker and Miss Glass, soda fountain volunteers in World War II

though you didn't remember it before they told the story.

It does not take long to blot out fact, to change truth, or to invent tradition. It can happen in a geological heartbeat. We currently have an artist working at the VCCA and Sweet Briar doing a community art project on just this subject. Neill Bogan, serving this month as a Sweet Briar Fellow at the VCCA, is a member of an artists' cooperative named REPOhistory, working to recover lost worlds, and to commemorate them through community art. The group attracted national acclaim doing just that in Manhattan, and when, most dramatically, Bogan and his fellow artists "collaborated with residents of Atlanta to recover and memorialize the lost history of the Buttermilk Bottom neighborhood in downtown Atlanta." Until the 1960s, Buttermilk Bottom had been "one of American's most vibrant African American ghettos," and then, "in a massive urban renewal project," had simply been wiped out, paved over so that most people under 40 were unaware it had ever existed.



Spring day on the lake

The thought of trying to recover, reclaim Sweet Briar's history and help it to live again thus becomes challenging, even daunting. And yet there is something so compelling about our story that it simply demands to be told, and this year, as we focus on our historic buildings, and on the upcoming Centennial of the Founding of the College, we are probably more conscious of Sweet Briar's history than any college generation since the very earliest ones. As we examine the story of the role of Ralph Adams Cram, the College's gifted architect, as our archeology students dig in the grounds of Sweet Briar House, as our faculty explores the changes in curriculum over time, as our students try to reconstruct the social history of Sweet Briar's clubs, we discover what historians throughout history have learned: writing history simply produces more history.

Most of us have read the charming *The Story of Sweet Briar College* by Martha Lou Lemmon Stohlman, published in 1956, the 50th anniversary of the first entering class of the college. It is a wonderful example of a college history vintage Fifties. In the process of writing it, more and more documents came to light.... Stohlman, in a little essay written just before the publication of *The Story of Sweet Briar*, talked about how the material seemed to multiply as she worked with it:

"Martha von Briesen glowingly showed me photostats of the recently found letters of Elijah Fletcher. I went over to Amherst and heard from Eliza Payne Eskridge's own lips the story of Indiana Williams' death and how Mrs. Eskridge herself had found her will. . . . I left campus with the rear of the car sagging under stacks of *Briar Patches*, catalogues, Alumnae News's, handbooks, and the collection of the [history] committee. . . . a mountain of paper.. . .

"And of course I had a considerable correspondence." She solicited "newspaper files of 1901 to 1906. . . . Miss Mary K. Benedict was unable to write herself but her sister, Miss Florence Benedict, wrote often, generously helping to obtain and verify data. And Miss Dee Long was more excited than almost anyone at the prospect of recording the story of Sweet Briar. . . . She joyfully wrote frequent letters, turning over invaluable gleanings of her own. After her death in December her sister wrote that even on the morning that she was taken to the hospital she had been writing something for me. Enclosed was a piece on Miss McVea and I used almost every word of it.

". . . Once I spent the night with Miss Glass in Charlottesville and we must have talked at least nine hours." She adds, cryptically, "Even the episode there of the snake in the bathtub with me did not suffice to divert for long our conversation." When she decided to organize the first chapter around the Fletcher family, she noted, "enough is now known [about them] to fill a book by itself."

The Story of Sweet Briar is

Patchwork Day promotes spring clean up

a lively and delightful book, despite the fact that its author worked under a number of handicaps. Stohlman notes that she was a psychologist by training, and found it "a bit presumptuous to think that I could suddenly turn historian." She had only fourteen months to complete the history, not nearly enough time, and was the mother of children ages four and seven to boot. To top it off, she had a committee to please, and as the chair of that committee, Julia de Coligny put it in the book's Introduction, "It is a tribute to the author that she was able to preserve her identity in the face of so much good advice."

In some respects, writing this first college history was easy because eyewitnesses were at hand. "The word history," Stohlman writes, "rings with echoes of times past whereas we were still surrounded with characters from every period of our history. . . . We were made acutely aware of this blend of present-in-past one July day when the temperature was in the nineties and the humidity not describable in mere numbers. The committee was meeting in Garden Cottage and discussing how best to vivify an account of student life during the early part of Miss Glass's administration when we heard a familiar voice outside. In a moment a lady was at the door—Miss Glass! After a gay greeting to each of us, she departed leaving us wondering whether we were working not so much on a history as on a committee report, king-size."

But by today's standards, Stohlman's history leaves much to be desired. As Wesleyan historian David Potts observes, most college histories are, in essence, "the chronological veneration of presidents and prominent trustees." Much of *The Story of Sweet Briar* falls into this pattern; indeed, the book assigns one chapter to each president. It contains no scholarly apparatus at all; it polishes off all sources in a chatty two page omnibus note.

Of most interest to me is the fact that the Stohlman history, like most college histories, is very short on context. Subjects it does NOT explore include the history of women's education in the South, and in Virginia. (It is interesting to note, for example, that the three liberal arts colleges in the Lynchburg area all were founded within three years of one another. Was there a local movement decrying the need for higher education? If so, had Indiana Fletcher Williams and James Henry Williams been aware of it or involved in any way?) And Sweet Briar was a plantation, worked by slaves. We need to know more about that. Can we place the slaveholding experiences of Elijah Fletcher and then Indiana Fletcher in the context of Central Virginia? Little is said about the lives of women in the 19th century South, or at the turn of the century, or about the expectations the public had for young women who aspired to an education. For what were they being educated? And what forces shaped Daisy's father, who is barely mentioned in the story of Sweet Briar, though he was much involved in the initial conception to found a college.

That we need a new history is clear. But how should we proceed? Fortunately, we can take as our mentors dozens of colleges who have done college histories recently, and if we decide to embark on this project, we should first consult widely to identify good strategies and potential pitfalls. University of Chicago's Mary Ruth Yoe suggests that the most difficult decision is what kind of history to do; will the goal be a scholarly history or a PR product?

Stohlman's *Story of Sweet Briar* was written before the women's movement, before the Civil Rights movement, before the technological revolution. Each of these has had incalculable and dramatic impact on Sweet Briar, and any new history will need to focus on these changes. A new history will also want to consider the impact of the decision by leading men's colleges to become coeducational, and handle very straightforwardly the difficulties the surviving women's colleges have had in attract-

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President Muhlenfeld reviews the books she received from the Friends of the Library: *Like Some Green Laurel: Letters of Margaret Johnson Erwin 1821-1863* by John Seymour Erwin (Baton Rouge,LA: L.S.U. Press, 1981, 154 pp., 1st edition, with dust jacket) and *Brokenburn: The Journal of Kate Stone, 1861-1868*, John Q. Anderson, ed. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1955, 400 pp., 1st edition with dust jacket) This journal records the Civil War experience of a girl living with her widowed mother, five brothers, and younger sister at Brokenburn, their plantation home in northeast Louisiana when the war began. It follows their flight to Texas before invading armies, and their return to devastation.

Friends of the Library Minutes of the Spring Meeting April 17, 1998

The Spring Meeting of the Friends of the Library was convened by Chairman Laura Goley '52 in the Browsing Room of the Library on April 17, 1998, at 4:00 P.M. Those present were: Edna Armstrong, Greg Armstrong, Barbara Blair, Catherine Booker '47, Ernest Edwards, Mary Stuart Gilliam '47, Laura Goley '52, Gene Goley, John Goulde, Lisa Johnston, Joyce Kramar, Liz Linton, Joe Malloy, Cathy Cash Mays '84, Sigrid Mirabella, Stephen Mirabella, President Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld, Nancy Rasenberger '51, Anne Richards '84, Margaret Anne Rogers '56, Ann Whitley '47 and Louise Zingaro '80.

The minutes of the Fall Meeting (1997) of the Friends of the Library were approved as submitted.

Cathy Mays '84 welcomed the most recent life member, Laura Goley '52. As of April 16,1998, there were 181 members who contributed $8,792 to the Friends of Library fund. It was reported that the membership was down but there was to be a mailing in April. New Friends of the Library Council include Ann Whitley '47, Sigrid Mirabella and Stephen Mirabella. It was reported that the Chair of the Nominating Committee was vacant. A nomination letter will be mailed to four prospective members.

Lisa Johnston, Associate Director and Head of Public Services, gave the Finance Committee Report and announced that Professor John Goulde of the Religion Department has agreed to serve as Treasurer for the Friends of the Library. The Treasurer's Report was approved for the coming year.

Lisa Johnston gave the Needs Committee Report in the absence of Allen Huszti, who sends his regrets. Ms. Johnston requested that the Friends accept the Needs Committee's list of purchases. The list of requests came to $7,011.61. After a short discussion, the Friends approved the purchase of these items.

Joe Malloy, Reference, Interlibrary Loan and Branch Librarian, gave the Publications Committee Report. The Library Gazette has been redesigned and the Spring of 1996 issue was distributed to the members. A general mailing was to follow the next week. The Spring 1996 Gazette includes John Goulde's lecture on the Irene Vongehr Vincent '40 and the John Vincent collection of Chinese books and artifacts that were donated to the library. It was announced that all of the back issues of the Gazette will be published.

Laura Goley '52, Chairman of Friends of Library 1995-1998, with John Goulde

Joe Malloy gave the Events Committee Report. The committee will continue to plan lectures and programs that will precede the Friends of the Library Business Meeting. Subsequent to this meeting, Professor of Biology Emeritus Ernest "Buck" Edwards presented a lecture and slide program on the "Wildflowers of Sweet Briar."

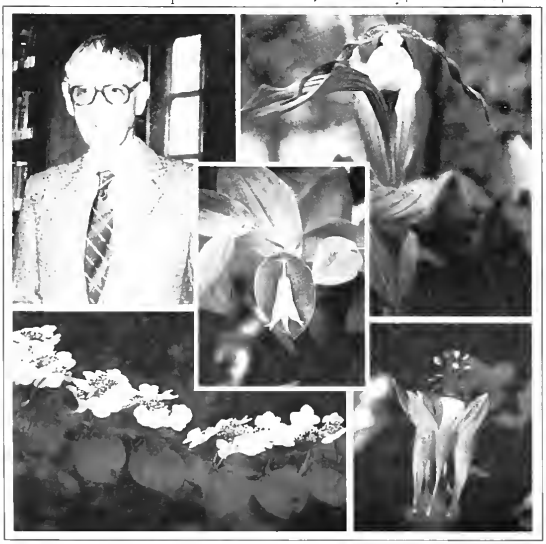
The Fall Meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held on Friday, October 30, 1998.

New Business

Joe Malloy presented Laura Goley '52 with a small gift in appreciation of her leadership as Chairman of the Friends of the Library for the last three years.

Lisa Johnston reported on recent activities in the library. She reported that the library's Electronic Classroom—Room 201—has been used constantly by students and faculty since it opened in September. The Amherst County school system used the room for two days of internet training for teachers. Liz Linton, Serials Librarian and WEB Page Designer, will be redesigning the library's homepage this summer. Finally, Ms. Johnston reported that Ralph Aiken, retired Professor of English, had passed away this year. A memorial fund in the library was established in his memory. Ms. Johnston displayed several new books on contemporary British, Irish and Scottish Fiction that were purchased from this fund.

Immediately following the meeting, the Friends adjourned to the Wailes Center for cocktails and dinner with the Friends of Art. Following dinner, the President of Sweet Briar College, Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld, presented the Gerhard Masur Memorial lecture, "Writing History and Other Arts."



Professor of Biology Emeritus, Ernest "Buck" Edwards and some of his slides of wildflowers of Sweet Briar.

Spring 1998 Acquisitions (Selected Titles)

The Robert Lehman Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art - Volume IV - Illumination; edited by Sandra Hindman. Princeton University Press / 1998.
This book presents the exceptional group of illuminations in the Robert Lehman Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The miniatures and cuttings from medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in this collection represent the major schools of illumination that flourished in Europe from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century.

Pomeroy, Sarah B. *Families in classical and Hellenistic Greece: representations and realities.* New York, Oxford University Press / 1997.

Women and literature in Britain, 1500-1700; edited by Helen Wilcox. New York, Cambridge University Press / 1996.

Woolf, Virginia *The essays of Virginia Woolf*; Volume IV; edited by Andrew McNellie. London / Hogarth Press / 1994.
Written while she worked on "Orlando", "To the Lighthouse" and "A room of one's own", and including the "The Common Reader", the essays explore subjects ranging from the greatest books to obscure English lives, confirming Woolf's faith in the value of writing and in the "common reader" she addresses.

Buck, Lucy Rebecca *Shadows on my heart: the Civil War diary of Lucy Rebecca Buck of Virginia*; edited by Elizabeth R. Baer. Athens, GA; University of Georgia Press / 1997.
This extraordinary chronicle mirrors the experience of many women torn between loyalty to the Confederate cause and dissatisfaction with the unrealistic ideology of white southern womanhood.

Booker, M. Keith *The African novel in English: an introduction.* Portsmouth, Heinemann / 1998.

Booker, M. Keith *Colonial power, colonial texts: India in the modern British novel.* Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press / 1997.

Dohrn-van Rossum, Gerhard *History of the hour: clocks and modern temporal orders.* Translated by Thomas Dunlap. Chicago, University of Chicago Press / 1996.

Trask, Richard B. *The devil hath been raised: a documentary history of the Salem Village witchcraft outbreak of March 1692: together with a collection of newly located and gathered witchcraft documents.* Danvers, Yeoman Press / 1997.

Salem-village witchcraft: a documentary record of local conflict in colonial New England; edited by Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum; with a new preface by the editors. Boston, Northeastern University Press / 1993.

Brauner, Sigrid:
Fearless wives and frightened shrews: the construction of the witch in early modern Germany. Amherst, University of Massachusetts Press / 1995.

Alighieri, Dante *Dante PC talk: La lettura interattiva de La Divina Commedia.* Milano, Ergoset / 1995.

Branca, Vittore *La sapienza civile: studi sull'umanesimo a Venezia.* Firenze, L.S. Olschki / 1998.

Carra Borgatti, Luisa *I cento anni della Dante Alighieri a Ferrara*: 1897-1997 Ferrara, Liberty House / 1997.

Leopardi, Giacomo *Canti - Vicenza*: CD-ROM.

Manzoni, Alessandro *I promessi sposi* - CD-ROM

Montale e il cannone poetico del Novecento: a cura di Maria Antonietta Grignani, Romano Luperini. Roma, Laterza / 1998.
Petrarca e La cultura europea; a cura di Luisa Rotondi Secchi Tarugi. Milano, Nuoviorizzonti / 1997.

Storia illustrata di Milano; a cura di France Della Peruta. Milano, E. Sellino / 1992

Testimonianze per un maestro: ricordo di Augusto Campana. Roma, Edizioni di storia e letteratura / 1997.

The Encyclopedia of Singers (Grosses Sangerlexikon) - 5 volumes; 3rd edition. Germany / 1998.

Reference

The Historical encyclopedia of world slavery; Junius P. Rodriguez, general editor. Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO / 1997.
This monumental two-volume study spans more than 4,000 years and encompasses the entire globe. It contains more than 650 entries, arranged in an easy-to-use alphabetical format, that explore the institution of slavery from ancient times to the present day.

Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History. Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO / 1998.
This authoritative three-volume set details early U.S. involvement in Vietnam and brings Vietnamese history to the present with discussions of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 1975 through 1997.

A historical guide to the U.S. government; edited by George T. Kurian. New York, Oxford University Press / 1998.

History of the Mass Media in the United States: An Encyclopedia; edited by Margaret A. Blanchard. Chicago, Fitzroy Dearborn / 1998.
This encyclopedia examines the ways in which the mass media affect American society and also the ways in which the mass media are in turn affected by societal developments in the United States.

Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion. New York, Macmillan / 1998.

Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature; edited by Mary Ellen Brown and Bruce Rosenberg. Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO / 1998.
This lucid, specialized reference work draws on the extraordinary scholarship of 77 authorities to provide more than 200 definitive essays on North American and European folklore. Entries in this two-volume set are designed to provide a cross-cultural interdisciplinary perspectiv

Classic Early Cinema

Cabinet of Dr. Caligari; Robert Wiene director. Germany 1919.

Spiders; Fritz Lang director. Germany 1919. -

The Golem; Paul Wegener director. Germany 1920. -

Nosferatu; F.W. Murnau director. Germany 1922

The Last Laugh; F.W. Murnau director. Germany 1924 - Laserdisc

Faust; F.W. Murnau director. Germany 1926 -

Sunrise; F.W. Murnau director - USA 1927

Greed; Erich von Stroheim director - USA 1924 -

Man with the Movie Camera; Dziga Vertov director, USSR 1928

Vampyr; Carl Dreyer director - Denmark 1931 -

La Jetee; Chris Marker director - France 1966 -

Maya Deren Experimental Films; Maya Deren director - USA 1943-9 -

Friends of the Library Minutes of the Fall Meeting October 30, 1998

John Goulde, Treasurer; Nancy Rasenberger '51, Chair; and John Jaffe, Director of Libraries and Integrated Learning Resources

Ann Reams '42; Joyce Kramar, Acquisitions Librarian; Jane Nelson, Vice Chair; Lisa Johnston, Associate Director of Libraries; and Jenniter Crispen, council member, enjoy the The Book Shop following Ann Whitley's talk.

The Fall Meeting of the Friends of the Library was convened by Chairman Nancy Rasenberger '51 in the Browsing Room of the Library on October 30,1998 at 4:00 P.M. Those present were: Jean Albert '46, Nancy Baldwin '57, Barbara Blair, Jennifer Crispen, Marge Freeman, Laura Goley '52, John Goulde, Adelaide Hapala, John Jaffe, Lisa Johnston, Joyce Kramar, Liz Linton, Joe Malloy, Cathy Mays '84, Stephen Mirabella, Jane Nelson'66, Ann Reams '42, Anne Richards '84, Margaret Stanton, Ann Whitley'47, Elizabeth Wood '80.

The minutes of the Spring Meeting (1998) of the Friends of the Library were approved as submitted.

John Jaffe, Director of Libraries and Integrated Learning Resources, recognized Jane Nelson '66, who has agreed to be our Vice-Chairman. Cathy Mays '84 gave the Membership Report. As of October 30, 1998, seventeen contributing members have raised a total of $640.00 for the Friends of Libraries. Last year as of October 30, 1998, there were eighteen contributing members raising a total of $837.50. Mailings of membership renewals will begin next week as will solicitations for new Life Members. Membership invitations were also extended to visitors on Parents Weekend. We have a number of new Council Members, but still need to nominate four more to serve on the Council. Mrs. Mays requested members to make recommendations for Council members to Mrs. Joyce Kramar. Mrs. Kramar will send a letter inviting them to serve.

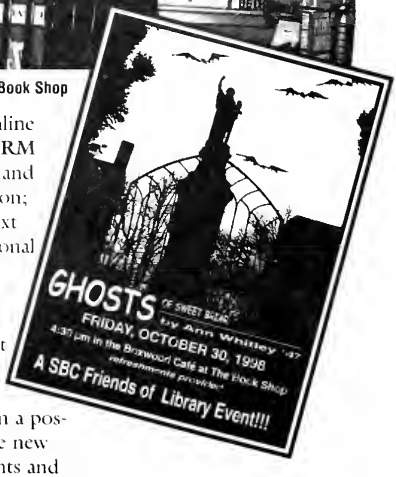
John Goulde, Treasurer, gave the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Goulde ask that the members approve to reduce the salaries line of the budget from $850.00 to $200.00. The reason for this is that the Gazette is done in house, except for actual printing, so all that is needed is for someone to proof the final copy for printing. The Friends approved this change and voted to accept the Finance Committee Report.

Joe Malloy gave the Needs Committee Report for Allen Huszti. Mr. Malloy requested that the Friends accept the Needs Committee's list of purchases. The list of requests came to $4,973.63. After a short discussion, the Friends approved the purchase of these items.

Lisa Johnston gave a report on the library. Ms. Johnston reported that use of the library has increased. She reported that the Browsing Room has been adopted as a home for the Mad Hatters creative writing circle and the Chapel Committee's Community Book Club. She reported that the library has added three major online services: **ABI/INFORM** that indexes business and economical information; **Lexis-Nexis**, a full-text database for international news and legal texts; and **JSTOR**, a new database that stores many years of full text scholarly journals in liberal arts disciplines. There has been a positive response to these new resources from students and faculty.

The Friends adjourned to the Sweet Briar Book Shop for refreshments and a talk by Ann Whitley, Director of the Sweet Briar Museum. Mrs. Whitley retold tales from her book, *Ghost Stories and Mysteries of Sweet Briar.* Afterwards, Mrs. Whitley signed books for the Friends and other guests.

Ann Whitley '47 at The Book Shop



Fall 1998 Acquisitions (Selected Titles)

Pfaff, Richard William *Liturgical calendars, saints, and services in medieval England.* Aldershot, Hampshire, Ashgate / 1998
Seventeen essays by scholars from eight countries focus on the history and transformation of depictions of the face of Christ and how the traditions associated with them engendered ideas about art and the supernatural.

Chrisman, Nicholas R. *Exploring geographic information systems.* New York, J. Wiley & Sons /1997.
Nick Chrisman, a legend in the field of geographic information systems, provides a refreshing perspective on GIS. This book is recommended to anyone involved in the field, particularly to those planning on teaching GIS. It places GIS in a societal context that is becoming increasing important as this technology becomes mainstream.

Garnsey, P.D. *Cities, Peasants and Food in Classical Antiquity: Essays in Social and Economic History.* New York, Cambridge University Press / 1998.
This is a collection of essays in the social and economic history of Greece and Rome by a leading historian of classical antiquity. They are grouped in three overlapping sections, covering the economy and society of cities; peasants and the rural economy, and food supply and famine.

Staples, Ariadne Staples *From Good Goddess to Vestal Virgins: Sex and Category in Roman* Religion. New York, Cambridge University press / 1998.
This book examines how women in Rome were perceived both by themselves and by men through women's participation in Roman religion, as Roman religious ritual provided the single public arena where women played a significant formal role. The book argues that the ritual roles played out by women were vital in defining them sexually and that these sexually defined categories spilled over into other aspects of Roman culture, including political activity.

Halprin, Anna *Moving toward life: five decades of transformational dances.* Hanover, Wesleyan University Press / 1995.

Virginia Woolf and her influences; selected papers from the Seventh Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf. New York, Pace University Press / 1998.

Women in the milieu of Leonard and Virginia Woolf: peace, politics, and education; edited by Wayne K. Chapman and Janet M. Manson. New York, Pace University Press / 1998.
This book is a valuable addition to scholarship on Bloomsbury, the history of women in Britain, and the work of Leonard and Virginia Woolf. It portrays an era and illuminates the work of a number of famous writers by examining less well-known lives and works that were part of the adaptive complex, or milieu.

Woolf, Virginia *Virginia Woolf's Jacob's room: the holograph draft.* New York, Pace University Press / 1998.

Carey, Lisa *The mermaids singing.* New York, Avon Books / 1998.
This book is the story of three generations of Irish and Irish-American women, set on an island where myth is as powerful as truth. It is a bout love and resentment between mothers and daughters, about the heartbreak of being torn between two worlds and the earch for a place to call home.

Dwelling in possibility: women poets and critics on poetry, edited by Yopie Prins and Maeera Shreiber. Ithaca, Cornell University Press / 1997.
This book is a splendid collaboration between poets and critics. Prins and Shreiber have interwoven sophisticated feminist critical essays with poetic meditations on genre and gender; the dialogues they set up are lyrically elegant as well as intellectually exhilarating. This collection not only sets a new standard for feminist theorizing about poetic genres, it performs the pleasures of feminist reading in all their diversity.

Augustinus, Aurelius, Saint 354-430 *Le confessioni di Sant 'Agostino: testo Latino dell'edizione Maurina (1679), traduzione italiana, indice delle parole, indice delle citazioni bibliche, iundice tematico, bibliografia.* Milano, bibliografica / 1993

Reference Department

The Encyclopedia of Popular Music, Groves Press / 1998.

Shinagawa, Larry Hijime *Atlas of American diversity.* Walnut Creek, CA; AltaMira Press/ 1998.
This atlas employs over 130 satellite photographs to depict the natural foundations and processes of global change as well as the destructive effects of human actions. Included are many case studies including ? El Nino effect, Mount St. Helens, the San Andreas Fault and other examples from around the world.

World travel atlas - 5th edition. S.F. Communictions, Inc. / 1998

Earth map book environmental atlas. Cambridge, Interarts /1998.

Essential world atlas. 2nd edition - New York, Oxford University Press/ 1998.

Student Atlas - New York, DK Publishing / 1998.

Mayhew, Susan *A dictionary of geography.* 2nd edition - New York, Oxford University Press / 1997.

The atlas of global change; edited by Lothar Beckel. New York, Macmillan Library Reference / 1998.
Minahan, James *Miniature empires: a historical dictionary of the newly independent states.* Westport, Greenwood Press / 1998.

Encyclopedia of women in American politics; edited by Jeffrey D. Schultz. Phoenix, Oryx Press / 1998.
This encyclopedia is the first comprehensive work to describe the political struggles and achievements of American women, who were historically underrepresented in a system dominated by men.

Encyclopedia of Religion in American politics; edited by Jeffrey D. Schultz. Phoenix, Oryx Press / 1998.
This encyclopedia is an A to Z listing covering a broad range of topics related to religious issues and politics, ranging from the religious freedom sought by the Pilgrims in the 1620s to the rise of the religious right in the 1980s.

Encyclopedia of Minorities in American politics; edited by Jeffrey D. Schultz. Phoenix, Oryx Press / 1998.
This encyclopedia is the only resource available that focuses exclusively on the expanding role of minorities in U.S. politics. Containing more than 2,000 entries, this two volume set is divided into four distinct sections covering African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans.

Poplawski, Paul *A Jane Austen encyclopedia.* Westport, Greenwood Press / 1998.
This reference book is an accurate, comprehensive and detailed guide to Jane Austen's life and works.

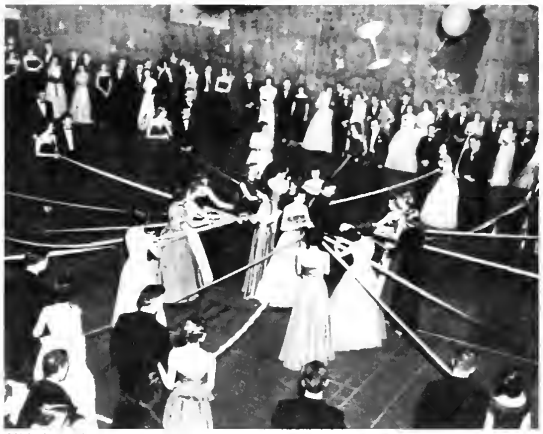
Gale, Robert L. *An F. Scott Fitzgerald encyclopedia.* Westport, Greenwood Press / 1998.
F. Scott Fizgerald is one of the mot challenging authors of American literature. This work includes hundreds of alphabetically arranged entries for Fitzgerald's rise from obscurity with a chronology that traces Fizgerald's rise from obscurity with the publication of "This Side of Paradise (1920).

Continued from page 3

ing talented students in sufficient numbers in the last two decades.

Over the decades since Stohlman's wonderful book, literally dozens of people, faculty, staff and alumnae, have been moved to write memorial pieces about Sweet Briar, and we will want to mine these thoroughly....

And we will want to urge more recent faculty and graduates to balance these recollections of the early Sweet Briar with tales of the



Midwinter dance figure, 1950

Vietnam era, the days of women's liberation, of the "Me-decade" of the 80s. We'll want to talk Sara Lycett, chairman of our Board of Directors, into writing down the true story of how she led a Civil Rights protest which caused the entire student body to be restricted to campus. Or Joanne Patton's tale of how her young suitor George (later General Patton) sent the dean roses and saved Joanne from being shipped home. We'll want to use the chapter in Wilson Newman's book about going all the way to the Supreme Court to break Miss Indie's will so that we could legally enroll minority women, and we will want to use Marshlyn Yergan-Alsopp's moving memoir about her experiences on campus as the first African-American student. We will want to involve everyone we can entice to become a part of the project, to gather collections of letters of alumnae with faculty, and board members with presidents, and friends with friends.

So a new *Story of Sweet Briar College* has the potential to become an enduring and impressive continuing education project for all of us. As one of the most wired campuses in America, we can use our technological prowess by working on our project on the Web itself—posting there "factoids," snippets, essays, memoirs, transcribed letters, the raw materials of our history as they accumulate....

The worst reason for writing a college history, according to David Potts, "is to commemorate a centennial or other anniversary. Such celebratory efforts, usually launched with too little lead time, are not likely to yield much scholarly understanding." He goes on to say that "In a way, producing a scholarly history should be a natural outgrowth of the liberal arts precept that an overriding goal of education is self-understanding. That applies to an institution as well as an individual—and it's a continuous process."

I urge us all to think seriously about this project. It could be our most creative collective act, our communal affirmation of the relationship of past to present, of the interrelatedness of disciplines and events, and of the enduring value that one institution, one place, has for us all.

(This is a condensed version of President Muhlenfeld's talk. For copies of the entire lecture, please contact the library.)

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